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Fans go wild Saturday as Viktor Stalberg and the rest of the Senators continue their push to the team's best season in a decade. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IT'S HAPPENING

In case you hadn't noticed, this team is for real, metroSPORTS

A licence to keep landlords in line

HOUSING

Advocates call for strict rules after survey on squalid homes

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

A group that advocates for low-income families wants the city to license landlords after a survey revealed many tenants are dealing with bugs, drafts and faulty heating.

ACORN released a survey of 165 of its members Friday morning that found more than half required repairs to their apartments when they moved in.

According to the data, 32.1 per cent had heating problems, 22.4 had bed bugs and 34.5 per cent dealt with cockroaches.

ACORN member Brooklynne Eeuwes said she found reference online to cockroaches in an apartment she was about to move into. She wanted to back out then and there but had already provided a deposit.

Once she and her boyfriend moved in they found the bugs were regular guests, along with a lengthy list of other problems the landlord did not address.

She said they considered filing a complaint with the landlord-tenant board but didn't believe they would succeed. They did arrange for a property-standards inspector to visit, but nothing happened afterward.

"The work-order form is now four-and-a-half-months outstanding," she said. "Nothing ever happened. There was no follow-up."

ACORN's proposal would require landlords to develop annual maintenance plans, provide proof of insurance and submit to annual inspections.

John Dickie, a lawyer and chairman of the Eastern Ontario Landlord organization, said there is no need for a new system when tenants already have the landlord-tenant board and a property-standards system.

Toronto recently approved a landlord-licensing system, but Dickie said "they are taking a baseball bat to a fly."

> **They are taking a baseball bat to a fly.**
> John Dickie

Dickie said bad landlords who ignore tenants and rulings are no more likely to follow a licensing regime. He said it would also add costs that would ultimately be passed on.

"This will make housing less affordable. It's counterproductive to what ACORN wants," he said.

Eeuwes said the proposal would force landlords to clean up their act.

"Having those annual inspections and having that accountability for the landlord will really change things for us."

JIM WATSON BACK IN THE RACE FOR MAYOR NEXT YEAR metroNEWS

Adams, Peters step up to co-host Junos

MUSIC

Duo replaces Bublé, who bowed out for family reasons

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Comedian Russell Peters and songwriter Bryan Adams will co-host the 2017 Juno Awards in Ottawa next month.

Organizers said the duo will bring a "mix of rock-and-roll and irreverence" to the award ceremony scheduled for April 2.

Artists set to perform at the show include A Tribe Called Red, Alessia Cara, Arkells, Ruth B, Sarah McLachlan, Shawn Mendes and The Strumbellas.

Canadian crooner Michael Bublé was originally selected to host the awards, but has decided to step down to focus on his family. Bublé's three-year-old son Noah was diagnosed with liver cancer last November.

"Our thoughts continue to be with Michael — we respect his ongoing commitment to his family and look forward to working with him again in the future," said Mike Cosentino, spokesperson for Bell Media.

"We are thrilled that his friends Bryan and Russell have stepped up to host this year's broadcast and have no doubt they will deliver an unforgettable show," he said.

Over 100 artists are set to play in Ottawa as part of JUNOfest, a two-night music festival that will lead up to the awards night.

The schedule includes many nominees, including The Strumbellas, Silla + Rise, The Dirty Nil, Whitehorse, Tasha The Amazon, Holy Fuck, Bit Funk, Cold Creek County and Exco Levi.

Performances will take place inside a wide variety of Ottawa music venues including House of Targ, Babylon and Saint Brigids.

Canadian musician Bryan Adams and comedian Russell Peters hope to bring a mixture of rock-and-roll and irreverence when they take the stage as Juno Awards co-hosts in April. THE CANADIAN PRESS; CONTRIBUTED

CRIME

Police execute raid on illegal pot dispensary

Ottawa Police raided another pot shop on Thursday, just two weeks after high-profile activist Jodie Emery visited the city for the grand opening.

Police executed a warrant at Cannabis Culture on Bank Street around 11 a.m. The store opened on Feb. 22 and sold marijuana to anyone over the age of 19, regardless of medical licence.

Five employees were arrested and charged at the dispensary, but police are not releasing names. The accused have been released and are expected to appear in court.

Police seized dried marijuana, drug-infused oil, shatter and hashish as well as a laptop, digital scales and $1,850 in Canadian money.

A small number of customers showed up during the raid to voice their support for the employees and owners.

"The Ottawa Police Service would like to remind the public that storefront marijuana dispensaries are illegal and have no association with lawful medical marijuana," police said. "Investigations related to such illegal storefronts will continue."

Cannabis Culture, a chain owned by marijuana activists Marc and Jodie Emery, have 19 other marijuana dispensaries around the country.

Product on display at the Cannabis Culture location on Bank Street. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

The raid in Ottawa coincided with 11 other search warrants executed by Toronto police as part of Project Gator. Seven other Cannabis Culture locations were raided, and the Emerys have apparently been arrested in Toronto.

Lawyer Jack Lloyd says the couple was taken into custody at Toronto's Pearson International Airport on Wednesday evening.

Neither Lloyd nor Toronto police could confirm what, if any, charges the Emerys are facing. Lloyd says the Emerys are due in a Toronto courtroom on Thursday. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a ...flying car? Airbus unveils its vision of the future. VIDEO ON THE METRO APP

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson tours the construction site of a future light rail station on Tremblay Road. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Yes, Watson wants to go another round

POLITICS

Campaign to run on existing record of practicality

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Mayor Jim Watson unofficially kicked off the 2018 municipal election campaign on Thursday with the announcement that he will seek re-election.

The announcement will galvanize volunteers, but it may also ward off potential opponents, he suggested.

"There would probably be a fair number of people that would probably run if I wasn't running," he said. "There's no question — I don't want to take anything for granted — it's tough to defeat incumbents."

Watson was first elected to the Ottawa city council in 1991, and became mayor in 1997. He resigned in 2000, and successfully pursued provincial politics, before returning as mayor in 2010 and in 2014.

He's since brought some long sought-after projects to fruition, most ambitiously, the expansion of Ottawa's light rail system.

> **Our job is not to bribe people with their own money.**
> Mayor Jim Watson

Watson said his election platform will involve more than Stage 2 LRT and low taxes, but he plans to run on an existing record of practicality.

"Things are looking up and the unemployment rate is falling, but I think our job is not to bribe people with their own money and offer them bells and whistles," he said.

Watson said that recent mayoral scandals in other Canadian cities and even the Trump win in the United States will encourage people to pick stability.

He said he doesn't fear voter discontent over urban issues like moving the central library branch west or voicing disapproval over safe injection sites.

"I don't buy the argument that just because one issue like the library galvanized a hundred or so people, means that people are angry with you. I'm not going to get 100 per cent of the vote, no one ever does, but I'm comfortable with the decisions we've made," he said. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

OPINION

If it's a three-peat, that's up to you

COLLINS' CAPITAL

Steve Collins

"Someday," Mayor Jim Watson teased me last spring, "you're going to write a column where you agree with me."

I was actually a little surprised the mayor found me so contrary. On our occasional points of dispute over the years, I always thought he was the one who kept disagreeing with me.

Disagreeing without being disagreeable has been a hallmark of Mayor Watson's mayoralty, and yesterday he made it official that he's asking you for the job again in 2018.

What's on offer will be more of the same, a tight cap on tax increases, backed up by a tightly controlled budget process that sees councillors, with varying degrees of restiveness, essentially vote on it as a fait accompli. Steady as she goes on signature works-in-progress like LRT, LeBreton Flats and a new Central Library. Tireless promotion of our city as a tourist destination and special events venue. What you've seen is what you'll get.

> **It may be a little dull, but dull seems to be working.**

It may be a little dull, but dull seems to be working. Watson topped the list of Canada's most popular big city mayors in a January poll, scoring a 79 per cent approval rating, even higher than the hefty 76.2 per cent of the vote he won in his 2014 re-election. By October 2018, he'll likely be in the enviable position of pointing to a fully functional Confederation Line and an under-construction main library. Look upon my works, ye electors, and vote Jim.

He's an undefeated campaigner with great name recognition, but incumbency can have its drawbacks as experience turns to baggage.

And Mayor Watson is about as incumbent a mayor as we've ever had, especially if you count his three years heading the pre-amalgamation city in the late '90s. A fourth term would add up to 15 years, breaking Stan Lewis' record as our city's longest-serving mayor (1936-48).

The Watson way of doing things at City Hall is not the only possible way, and some voters would no doubt prefer more austere budgeting, better power-sharing with councillors, or more social activism in city government.

A year and a half before the next election, and without knowing who will run against him, it would be premature to assume the mayor will (or even should) rack up a third consecutive victory. Whether 2018 is time for more of what worked before or for fresh blood is going to be your call.

A personal note: After eight years, this is the last of my weekly city columns. But we're sure to meet again in these pages. Thank you so much for reading. This isn't really a free newspaper; you invest your time with us, and that means a lot.

OPIOID CRISIS

Reward for fentanyl intel

From now until the end of May, Crime Stoppers and the Ottawa Police will provide $2,000 in cash for tips that lead to fentanyl seizures or the arrest of those dealing the drug.

Submit an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Three approaches to putting women on the ballot

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Getting more women on the ballot requires political parties doing more to put them there — advocates for gender parity in politics generally agree on that.

Each of Canada's three major federal parties has its own approach to that ideal.

The Liberals had rules in the last campaign requiring that local riding associations look for female candidates before they decide to go ahead with a nomination contest.

"The party's formal rules for the nomination of candidates explicitly required that no nomination meeting be called until a thorough search for potential women candidates was conducted," said Braeden Caley, the party's director of communications.

The NDP goes a step further by preventing nominations from taking place unless someone from an "equity-seeking group" has put their name forward.

"We led all other parties in the number of women nominated," party president Marit Stiles said, "and women make up 41 per cent of our caucus."

Equity-seeking groups include women, minorities, people from the LGBTQ community and youth.

The Conservative party doesn't have specific rules in its constitution for gender diversity in nominations. Party spokesperson Corry Hann said they attract people to the party by having the best ideas.

"We motivate people to run for us simply by being a party based on common-sense principles and listening to the voices of our grassroots members," he said. "Our policies themselves are the best brand ambassadors, ones that appeal to people of all different backgrounds."

Reunion is delayed due to a technicality

In the early morning of March 28, 1997, Zuan Zhong and his wife heard crying at their doorway and found a baby girl in a red jumpsuit in a basket.

A red slip tucked under the newborn stated the baby's birth date and begged the family to look after the girl as their own because her biological parents could not afford to have another child in the household under China's then one-child policy. The couple took the girl in, named her Shanrong and raised her without telling her she had been abandoned.

"Although we are not related by blood, she is my daughter in every way, in my flesh," said Zhong, 45, now a Toronto resident. However, Shanrong, now 20, is not part of the family according to Canadian immigration officials at the Hong Kong visa post, who refused to let the girl join Zhong in Canada because a DNA test showed they're not related.

"Zhong and his wife are the girl's de facto parents, no doubt about it," said lawyer Avvy Go, who successfully appealed to the Federal Court against the visa officer's decision.

Zhong, a Catholic, fled China to Canada seven years ago and was granted asylum in 2013 on the grounds of religious persecution. Officials, however, insisted Shanrong must either be the biological offspring or be adopted, and they removed her from the family's permanent residency application.

In December 2015, with the help of Go, the family asked the Canadian visa post in Hong Kong to reconsider the decision. However, the visa officer would not budge, ruling that the merits of the application did not overcome the girl's ineligibility as a member of the family class.

In rejecting the visa post's decision, Federal Court Justice Keith Boswell said the officer had overlooked a significant document in the submission: a Chinese government certificate about the couple's relationship with the girl.

"It unequivocally states that: the applicant was abandoned; has been living with Mr. Zhong and (his wife) since she was found; … and is in a de facto adoptive family relationship," wrote Boswell in his recent ruling that sent the case back to immigration officials for a fresh assessment.

Zhong, who has not seen his wife and daughter since 2010, was thrilled with the news but wonders how much longer it will take for his family to join him in Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLICE

Man in crowbar attack arrested, charged

The man accused of assaulting a woman with a crowbar, breaking both her arms, in a road rage incident Tuesday has been charged with attempted murder. Edmonton police announced 28-year-old Jared Matthew Eliasson, has been arrested and faces several charges, including attempt to commit murder, possessing an offensive weapon dangerous to the public and aggravated assault. He remains in custody. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Federal Court Justice Robin Camp leaves a Canadian Judicial Council inquiry in Calgary, Sept. 9, 2016. Camp said he would step down as a member of the Federal Court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Knees together' judge steps down after rebuke

COURT

Judicial council recommended Robin Camp be removed

A judge who asked a sexual assault complainant in a trial why she couldn't keep her knees together quit Thursday after a scathing rebuke from the body that oversees the Canadian judiciary.

In a statement distributed by his lawyer, Justice Robin Camp said he would step down as a member of the Federal Court effective Friday.

"I would like to express my sincere apology to everyone who was hurt by my comments," Camp said in the statement. "I thank everyone who was generous and kind to me and my family in the last 15 months, particularly my legal team."

The move came after the Canadian Judicial Council recommended that Camp be removed from the bench, because his conduct was "manifestly and profoundly destructive" to the impartiality and integrity of the judiciary. The council's decision supported a recommendation in November by a disciplinary panel that was reviewing the original sexual assault trial of Alexander Wagar.

Court transcripts from the 2014 trial in Calgary show that Camp, who was a provincial court judge at the time, called the complainant "the accused" numerous times and told her "pain and sex sometimes go together." He questioned the complainant's morals and suggested her attempts to fight off the man were feeble.

Camp found Wagar not guilty, but the Appeal Court ordered a new trial. Last month, Wager was acquitted again.

The council said that Canadians expect their judges to know the law, have empathy and to recognize and question any past personal attitudes that might prevent them from acting fairly. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HALIFAX

Surge in victims seeking help

Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Halifax's Avalon Sexual Assault Centre has experienced a surge in calls this past week, and employees are hoping it highlights the urgent need for funding of their services.

"In particular since Tuesday, we have seen an increase in people contacting us," said the centre's executive director, Jackie Stevens. "Some people are looking for counselling services, and we have a lot of people from the general public who are just calling to seek clarification around laws or to understand what's going on or who are wanting to show support,"

"We have people calling about how they can help in terms of volunteering," Stevens said.

"We've had requests from people who want to do placements, and we've had a number of people looking for legal support and advocacy and sharing their stories because they're aware people have taken action around this situation and so they're reaching out."

Judge Gregory Lenehan's handling of cab driver Bassam Al-Rawi's case last week and his comments that "clearly, a drunk can consent" resulted in nationwide condemnation, protests and petitions. Earlier this week the Crown said it will appeal the cab driver's acquittal.

"These kinds of high profile cases do validate people's experiences when they see that the general public is rallying and speaking out for changes to the laws or questioning what is happening and how people are being treated," Stevens said.

"It does make (victims) feel believed and supported and so they do reach out for services … What's really important is that services across the province that currently exist are sustained."

Stevens said Avalon and other centres offering similar services in Nova Scotia struggle on limited funding. With increased demand on their services, and demand for additional services, she's hoping for more funding.

Despite the struggle to provide services to an ever-increasing population of clients seeking their help, Stevens said they don't want victims to ever hesitate to access the resources available.

GOP versus Obamacare

MEDICAL AID

Big differences between new health care bill, previous laws

At first glance, the health care bill from House Republicans appears to have similarities to the Obama-era law, such as tax credits, protections for people with health problems and the ability of parents to keep young adults on their insurance.

But in most cases, those components would work very differently under the GOP framework than is now the case with the Affordable Care Act.

Important details about the Republican plan are unknown, including cost and coverage. Here's a look at the current law and the GOP's plan:

House Speaker Paul Ryan uses charts and graphs to make his case for the GOP's long-awaited plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, Thursday, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 COVERAGE

Current law: About 11 million people are covered by expanded Medicaid in the 31 states that accepted it. Nationwide, an additional 12 million buy private health insurance through government-sponsored markets that offer plans with subsidized premiums. The national uninsured rate is below 9 per cent, a historic low.

GOP bill: Extent of coverage is unknown, as is the impact on the uninsured rate.

2 PRIVATE COVERAGE

Current law: Provides income-based tax credits for consumers buying government-regulated plans through HealthCare.gov and state insurance markets. The most generous assistance goes to people with low-to-modest incomes. Many solid middle-class households get no help despite sharp increases in premiums.

GOP bill: Provides tax credits primarily based on age, gradually phasing down for individuals making more than $75,000, or married couples earning more than $150,000.

Credits can be used to buy any state-licensed health plan. More middle-class consumers will benefit, but there's concern lower-income people would be disadvantaged.

3 COST

Current law: Coverage costs of about $1.4 trillion from 2017-2026, based on Congressional Budget Office estimates.

GOP bill: Unknown at this time; Republican aides say CBO numbers are coming.

4 PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Current law: Forbids insurers from turning people down on account of medical problems, or charging them more money.

GOP bill: Provides protection for people with health problems. But consumers who have not maintained continuous insurance coverage face a 30 per cent premium penalty for a year. States can use federal funds to set up high-risk pools as insurers of last result.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL

New ban faces legal challenge

Legal challenges against U.S. President Donald Trump's revised travel ban mounted Thursday as Washington state said it would renew its request to block the executive order.

It came a day after Hawaii launched its own lawsuit, and Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson said both Oregon and New York had asked to join his state's legal action. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey said the state is joining fellow states in challenging the revised travel ban.

Washington was the first state to sue over the original ban, which resulted in Judge James Robart in Seattle halting its implementation around the country.

Trump's revised ban bars new visas for people from six predominantly Muslim countries: Somalia, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya and Yemen. It also temporarily shuts down the U.S. refugee program.

Unlike the initial order, the new one says current visa holders won't be affected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Society's norms at risk in Trump's America

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

This week provided an excellent excuse to remember Donald Trump's egregious treatment of women. His pussy-grabbing claims and alleged sexual assaults. His attacks on women's looks. His indifference-turned-hostility to reproductive rights. His insistence that women in the military are to blame for their own sexual assaults.

Thank International Women's Day for these helpful memory jolts, in case you'd forgotten it all amidst the political deluge, these 60 days of news cycles that feel as if we're living in a dump, staring up at the sky each morning wondering what stained mattress will fall next and how much it'll hurt.

Trump's election to the White House was a stunning example of the shredding of political norms in the U.S. — those guidelines of conduct and character that offer(ed), at the very least, the facade of respectability. Norms that might not keep behaviour in check, but which, when discovered to have been violated, could once still ruin a politician's career.

But what about societal norms? Those, too, are thinning.

Pluralism and the idea that we treat everyone equally are at risk. We're seeing it the increased bomb threats against Jewish community centres in Canada and the U.S., and in threats against Muslim mosques. We're seeing it in the murder of Srinivas Kuchibhotla in Kansas by a white man who'd asked if he was in the U.S. illegally.

Then there's the increasingly bizarre stories of U.S. border guards adopting a Trumpian approach to their jobs, opting for antagonism and suspicion over routine guidelines for who should and shouldn't be let in: turning away a Canadian woman hoping for a spa day in the U.S. for no apparent reason, detaining an Australian and a French author for making routine trips to give speeches, refusing to let an Argentine-born New Yorker enter the U.S., and detaining a Sudanese green-card-holding grad student with handcuffs at JFK airport.

Much has been said of how Trump's new executive order on immigration compares to the last, but that debate ignores the fundamental shift already in place, a shift away from dependable rules, and toward inexplicable randomness. Even my white, green-card holding Canadian friend is cancelling a trip back home this summer, because why risk being turned away at the border?

In his campaign, Trump used America First as an economic message (ignoring the slogan's anti-Semitic history). But it's being heard as a much broader call to arms against everything and everyone perceived not to be American. It carries the underlying arrogance that everyone who's not American wishes they were, de facto demonizing all travellers to the U.S., that race and religion are good indicators of what America looks like, de facto demonizing non-Christians and non-Whites.

These ideologies are spreading from Trump outwards. They are emboldening prejudice. As worried as people may be about what kind of politics will survive this presidency, another crucial question to ask is, what kind of society?

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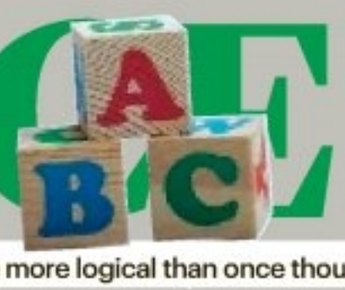

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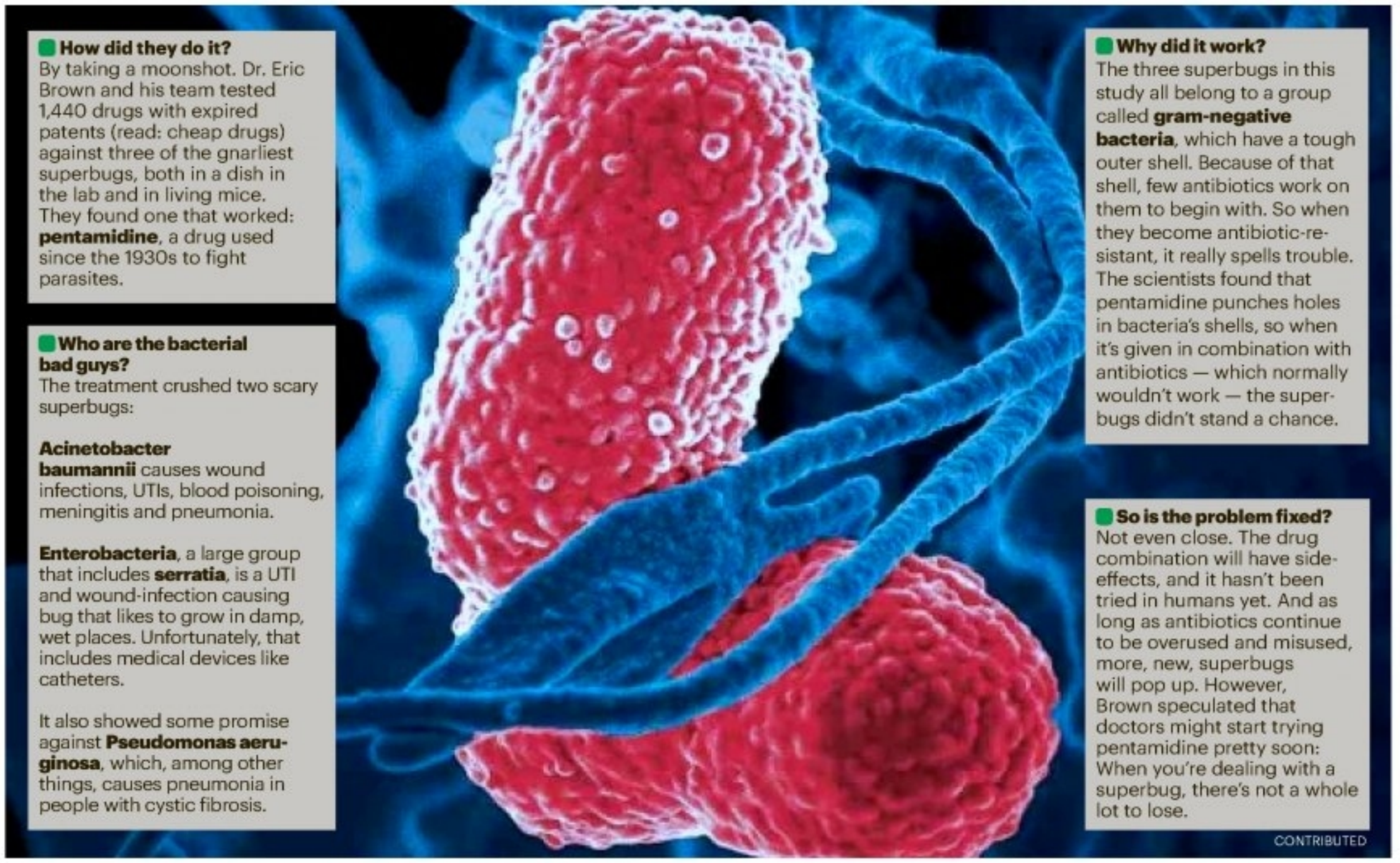
DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

SUCKER-PUNCHING SUPERBUGS

Here's a sentence you never want to hear in the hospital: 'It's a superbug, and we're out of drugs to try.' Especially after a sick loved one has suffered through round after round of antibiotics, with gruesome side effects but no improvement. Superbugs are bacterial infections impervious to our most powerful medications. And they're on the rise. But a team of researchers at McMaster University has found a glimmer of hope in the fight against them, thanks to a very old drug.



How did they do it?
By taking a moonshot. Dr. Eric Brown and his team tested 1,440 drugs with expired patents (read: cheap drugs) against three of the gnarliest superbugs, both in a dish in the lab and in living mice. They found one that worked: **pentamidine**, a drug used since the 1930s to fight parasites.

Who are the bacterial bad guys?
The treatment crushed two scary superbugs:

Acinetobacter baumannii causes wound infections, UTIs, blood poisoning, meningitis and pneumonia.

Enterobacteria, a large group that includes **serratia**, is a UTI and wound-infection causing bug that likes to grow in damp, wet places. Unfortunately, that includes medical devices like catheters.

It also showed some promise against **Pseudomonas aeruginosa**, which, among other things, causes pneumonia in people with cystic fibrosis.

Why did it work?
The three superbugs in this study all belong to a group called **gram-negative bacteria**, which have a tough outer shell. Because of that shell, few antibiotics work on them to begin with. So when they become antibiotic-resistant, it really spells trouble. The scientists found that pentamidine punches holes in bacteria's shells, so when it's given in combination with antibiotics — which normally wouldn't work — the superbugs didn't stand a chance.

So is the problem fixed?
Not even close. The drug combination will have side-effects, and it hasn't been tried in humans yet. And as long as antibiotics continue to be overused and misused, more, new, superbugs will pop up. However, Brown speculated that doctors might start trying pentamidine pretty soon: When you're dealing with a superbug, there's not a whole lot to lose.

CONTRIBUTED

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

I've changed my mind: Aliens are awesome

Last month I went to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of science, a.k.a. the science fair of planet Earth. It was so literally awesome: It filled me with awe.

I went to a talk by Penelope Boston, head of astrobiology at NASA. She studies species that live in our most extreme environments, such as sulphur-spewing caves. Pretty crazy in Earth terms, but par for the course on other planets.

Everywhere she looks, there's life. Even deep inside rock formations, where there are vast colonies of microbes that look like tiny cauliflower and cacti. They don't seem to share much DNA with any known life forms. Boston believes there's life on other planets, and it probably looks something like those rock critters.

The last time I wrote about aliens, I dismissed them as "looking something like pond scum."

I don't know where I got this "multi-cellular and sentient or BUST" attitude. Possibly from watching Space Jam one too many times as a child. But the presentation helped me recognize it as prejudice. Alien microbes are not too small for me to care about; I'm too big and dumb to appreciate them.

Their existence raises huge issues. An upcoming NASA mission will look for life on Jupiter's watery moon Europa. And it's urgent that we plan what to do if we find it, Kevin Hand of NASA said.

Devastation reigned when humans decided it was a bright idea to mix micro-organisms from different continents. What could happen if we brought Europan germs to Earth? Or the reverse? We could destroy an ecosystem before we get to study it. In Hand's words, "We must keep Europa for Europans."

I never thought of that before. There's nothing better than thinking about something for the first time. That's awe. And the more time I spend hanging out with scientists, the more I get.

Science Question?
genna.buck@metronews.ca

FINDINGS
Your week in science

MONSTROUS CONTROVERSY
The ultra-weird Tully Monster didn't have a backbone, says a new paleontology paper. The authors of a 2016 study who thought they saw a spine were actually looking at a gut, the paper claims. The 300 million-year-old species looks like a cross between a lobster, hammerhead shark and worm.

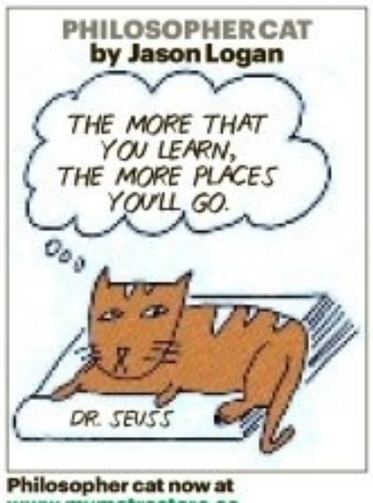
TIMELESS MATTER
It's a mind-bending finding, confirmed by peer review: **Time crystals**, which vibrate without energy and have a structure that repeats itself in space and in time, are real.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
An **extremophile** is a living thing, usually a micro-organism like bacteria, that has adapted to live in extreme conditions such as intense heat, acidity, cold or pressure.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Deborah likes to surf in hurricanes. You could say she's an extremophile, or possibly just nuts.

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan



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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Kevan Funk's drama Hello Destroyer has been nominated for four honours at this weekend's Canadian Screen Awards including best picture and best actor for Jared Abrahamson. CONTRIBUTED

Enforcing us to confront our bloodlust

INTERVIEW

Hello Destroyer tackles violence in hockey...and far beyond it

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

The forthcoming sequel to Goon may be getting most of the attention, but there is another hockey movie hitting theatres — even if the filmmaker doesn't particularly want it defined as such.

"I just knew I wanted to look at violence in an institutionalized way and so I needed a big organization," insisted Kevan Funk about his debut feature film, Hello Destroyer. "And hockey is the biggest cultural institution in this country."

The terse drama may be gaining praise for its honest portrayal of Canada's most popular game, but the tale of a young player whose grisly in-game act of violence sends his life into a tailspin is winning critics for its take on our relationship with aggression in sport.

"I make films that are meant to be divisive to some degree," admits Funk, acknowledging his drama may initially turn off the game's traditionalists. "(But) it's not an anti-hockey film. It's not even an anti-fighting film because it doesn't really comment so much on the violence of the game as much as the institutionalization of that violence.

"Sure there's going to be people who take it at first glance and go 'f— this movie, you've got to keep fighting in the game' but that's not even the conversation we're having."

In that sense, Funk's use of hockey was admittedly a "red herring" intended to reach beyond the mere bloodlust of watching two enforcers eat each other's fists.

In fact, that astute insight has afforded Hello Destroyer and Funk no less than four nominations (including best picture) at this weekend's Canadian Screen Awards.

While the movie may be a longshot, it's an incredible accomplishment for the Banff-bred filmmaker.

Also nominated is lead actor Jared Abrahamson (Netflix's Travellers) who has stuck by Funk ever since Destroyer began as a short film in 2013. Now with more than eight projects in the works and Hollywood success on the horizon, Abrahamson has extolled Funk for his forthcoming fame.

"A lot of my directing style has to do with giving actors space," admits Funk, shirking the credit. "I equate it to coaching in a way — you choose the best players for your team, you know what they can do (and) then create the best conditions which are best suited to those people."

BEHIND THE SCENES

Destroying the rest of the Competition
"The weird thing about the hockey movie as an entity is that most of the time, they have very little to say about hockey," said Kevan Funk. "Those films are so detached from any reality; they're just this very strange fantasy world."

Funk's Favorite Canuck Film
"Fubar has that badass unabashed boldness of being truly Canadian and I love that," said Funk of the cult-hit from Goon-director Michael Dowse. "I want to see more of that across all genres."

The Uncredited Star
Shot primarily in Prince George, B.C., Funk insists the town played as much a character as the actors. "There's something about having the fabric of that place and your cast and crew living there that shows up on-screen in sometime intangible and invisible ways," said Funk. "But I think that are essential ways."

STEVE GOW/FOR METRO

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Reilly: 'There's no future in war'

INTERVIEW

Versatile actor finds time to be philosophical on Skull Island

Actor John C. Reilly's castaway character in Kong: Skull Island, a scruffy longbeard named Hank Marlow, brings to mind Dennis Hopper's crazed jungle cameraman character in Apocalypse Now.

Hank also looks like how the Skipper from Gilligan's Island might appear after the proverbial "three-hour tour" turns into decades of being lost.

Such comparisons certainly apply, Reilly allows over the phone from a tour stop in London. But he suggests a left-field one he thinks is more on the money: the wily orphan girl Newt in Aliens, played by Carrie Henn, who helps Sigourney Weaver's Ripley fight deep space invaders.

"Like Newt, Hank is someone who's been left for dead who has survived somehow and who has been driven half crazy by the experience — but who is going to survive, no matter what," Reilly says. "Hank is also the character who gets to call out the elephant in the room (about the dangers of Skull Island). I love characters like that, those people who are apart from the rest of the group with a unique point of view."

The 51-year-old Reilly certainly hasn't gone unnoticed, in a 27-year screen career that has seen him do memorable characters both comic (Walk Hard, Talledega Nights, Step Brothers) and serious (Magnolia, The Thin Red Line, The Aviator).

You've done blockbusters before, but I'm guessing this one tested your ability to artistically stare up into the sky.
(Laughs) Yes, definitely! The effects guys would show us these little rough animations to give us an idea of what the actual action was that we're looking at, but that was nothing to seeing it for the first time on the screen. That's another fun thing about doing one of these effects-heavy movies. I get to be an audience member like everybody else! I've never seen it either! So when I sit down, it's a great surprise and a delight to me.

Were you delighted when you saw the finished version of the film?
I've seen it twice and I was really relieved that it was so good, because you never know. These big-budget things can oftentimes get off track and lose their way from start to finish. But this really held together in a way that surprised even me. I didn't realize the emotional resonance that Kong was going to have. That was something that was hard to predict until you actually saw the finished creatures … I showed the movie to a bunch of people I was working with when I first saw it, and it was unanimous, everyone was just walking out, being like, 'We've gotta save Kong!' "
I love this notion of balance in the world, how important balance is, and how we have to be careful about exerting our will and throwing off the balance of the natural world around us. I think that's really relevant to current audiences.

When you talk about being relevant, are you thinking of this as being some sort of a message movie?
I think it's a message movie if you want it to be a message movie. The truth is, it's just a really fun movie. It's a popcorn movie; you get caught up in the excitement and the emotion. And then afterwards, like any good movie, it can resonate for you in your own life, which I think is a good thing. I think a lot of times people dismiss "popcorn movies" because they say, "Well, I walked out of there and I just didn't think about it again. It immediately left my mind when I left the theatre." I think this movie has a little bit more going for it than that. I found myself thinking about how it related to my life, and how it related to the world.

John C Reilly says Kong: Skull Island director Jordan Vogt-Roberts gave him freedom to improvise. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The temptation might be to read Trumpian things into the film, even though it was made before Donald J. Trump was elected president.
I think that's our current obsession: reading Trumpian things into everything around us. I was reading Trumpian things into the World Series this year! But I think the themes of this movie are bigger than any kind of current political stuff. I think what we're talking about is the balance of the world, not just some political party or some election. We're talking about the bigger picture of things. The only way we're getting out of this world alive is if we all cooperate with each other, because there's no future in war. I think that's a pretty universal and non-partisan point of view. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INTERVIEW

Russell skates into past

There was a time when an interview with Wyatt Russell would take place in a locker room, not a plush downtown Toronto hotel suite.

The Goon: Last of the Enforcers star not only plays a hockey player in the film, he was once a junior league goalie who says his first vivid memory was getting a pair of skates when he was just three years old. Hockey, he says, "was my love, my passion."

His promising athletic career was cut short by multiple concussions, but the thirty-year-old fell right back into rink life on his first day of shooting Goon.

Wyatt Russell played amateur hockey before acting. CONTRIBUTED

"We were supposed to be getting off a bus after a game to meet our family members," he says. "I remember sitting down and being like, 'This is what I did.' It was actors acting, but I thought, 'I've done this. I've already done this.' I looked over to my left and they start filling in the bus with players that would fill out the team and there was a guy right next to me and I was like, 'Dylan?'

"I had played with him for a little while in Brampton. After that moment it became really easy and fun to slip back into hockey and hockey terminology. It's a world. It was what I wanted to do with my life."

RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Netflix-series Riverdale shot in Vancouver at Lord Byng Secondary School

The great baseball tour

With one major league baseball team in Canada, when it comes to home plate pride, its hard to root, root, root for Toronto's Rogers Centre. It is unbearably stuffy when the retractable roof is closed, the food and drink options are often overpriced and underwhelming, and, well that whole beer-can throwing incident last season didn't help its rep. Fans don't hate the centre as much as, say, Barry Bonds, but it's a close call for many. Celebrate the arrival of spring with a road trip and visit these stadiums where taking in the ol' ballgame is always a homerun. **Melissa Dunne** FOR METRO

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

CHICAGO

Wrigley Field

The Chicago Cubs broke a 108-year losing streak last fall, bringing the pennant back to Wrigley Field in Chicago's North Side. The famed stadium, built in 1914, is guaranteed to be buzzing with excitement this season. Soak in the beauty of the ivy-covered outfield walls while getting buzzed off a cup of local craft beer.

SAN DIEGO

Petco Park

Take in a game with the San Diego Padres while soaking up the warm California sun shining down on you. The food here is said to be so-so. But what Petco Park lacks in culinary finesse it makes up for in craft beer. Make sure to make your way up to the fifth floor where local brewery, Stone Brewing Co., has a palm-tree adorned outdoor beer garden.

BALTIMORE

Oriole Park at Camden Yards

The home of the Baltimore Orioles is in the heart of this gritty city. The grub here is so good you'll be hoping for extra innings, just so you can go back for more. The stadium offers everything from tacos to pizza to a namesake-barbecue joint opened by former All-Star Boog Powell.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT&T Park

This park is also named after a telecom company, but that's where the similarities with Rogers Centre ends. The beloved home of the San Francisco Giants has a beautiful view of the chichi city's bay. Don't leave without getting a selfie with the giant statue of a replica vintage 1927 four-fingered baseball mitt.

BOSTON

Fenway Park

You may want to leave your Jays jersey at home when you visit Major League Baseball's oldest stadium. Boston Red Sox fans are renowned for, er, being passionate, but it's worth the razzing to see the Green Monster in person. Find the energy to razz Sox fans right back with a Fenway Frank.

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Guiding Lonely Planet into the digital age

INTERVIEW

Houghton named CEO of popular travel guides at 24

Daniel Houghton was just 24 years old when he became CEO of Lonely Planet in 2013. Since then, he's restructured the company, expanded its digital presence and, to the surprise of many who feared he'd kill off Lonely Planet guidebooks, he's grown the print side of the business. The company now has 33 per cent of the guidebook market, its largest share ever. Houghton, now 28, starts his fourth year with the company in April.

Houghton's roots are in the South — he grew up outside Atlanta and holds a photojournalism degree from Western Kentucky University. But you could say travel is a family tradition: His parents worked for airlines and his grandparents toured the lower 48 states in an Airstream camper in the 1970s.

Houghton is based in Nashville, Tennessee, now, but last year he travelled some 150,000 miles for Lonely Planet, and the year before that, 300,000 miles.

What are some of the changes at Lonely Planet since you took over?
We've completely rebuilt the entire digital platform along with a suite of mobile products. We've just really tried to expand our content coverage as much as possible: food, adventure travel, we've launched a whole line of kids' content.

Travel is really much more than 'I'm about to go get on a very long-haul flight and take my guidebook.' That's obviously a very large part of our audience. ... But we've set the business up to reach people on as many platforms as we can. Whether they find something that we put on Instagram, or they see our magazine in the airport, or they visit our website because they Googled where to go in Italy and we're the No. 1 or 2 organic search result, we want to get that content in front of as many people as possible.

You were hired to run Lonely Planet by Brad Kelley, the billionaire who bought the company from the BBC. How did that come about?

Lonely Planet CEO Daniel Houghton at a rooftop bar in in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We got to meet pretty randomly a couple years before Lonely Planet. I was in the right place at the right time and very fortunate to have that opportunity. We met a few times and he offered me a job.

What were you doing before Lonely Planet?
At the time I was frustrated with the newspaper industry. I had started my own one-man band, a multimedia company doing everything from shooting pilots of TV shows to commercial work.

Kelley bought the company from the BBC at a fraction of what it had sold for a few years earlier. Is Lonely Planet profitable now?
We're certainly moving in the right direction. We're proud of what we've achieved and we don't really comment on the rest of it.

Had you travelled the world before Lonely Planet?
I'd been a lot of places but I hadn't been to Asia and I've never been to Antarctica. Every other continent I had been to a couple of times — a lot of vacations and both my parents worked for the airlines. Until I turned 21, I had a free ticket.

I grew up travelling with the family. My mom's idea of a really fun vacation was, 'Let's go to New Hampshire to see all of the covered bridges in the whole state.' As a 10- or 12-year-old, that's not radically exciting. But it is when you get given a camera: 'Maybe I'll take a picture of every one of them.'

Are there places you haven't been that you want to go?
Last year we had a book called The Ultimate Travel List. We had Angkor Wat at No. 1. I've never been there. I'd love to see that. I'd love to go to Myanmar. Vietnam.

How many countries have you been to?
I'm somewhere north of 35 but not more than 45.

How many states?
I've got one state left. I have not been to Hawaii. Of all the ones, right? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro SPORTS

One year after signing a four-year deal with Houston, Brock Osweiler was traded by the Texans to the Cleveland Browns

IN BRIEF

Carleton strong off hop in men's hoops championship

The Carleton Ravens opened defence of their Canadian university men's basketball championship with an 85-69 victory over Calgary on Thursday at the Final 8 in Halifax.

Men's player of the year Connor Wood, Kaza Kajami-Keane and Emmanuel Owootoah scored 16 points apiece for the Ravens, who've won six consecutive Canadian titles and a record 12 overall.

In Victoria, Carleton's women's team was slated to play its first Final 8 game against the host Vikes on Thursday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roughriders announce signing of new QB

Vince Young is officially a Saskatchewan Roughrider.

The Riders announced the signing of the former Texas Longhorns star Thursday. Young, 33, is returning to professional football after having last played in a regular-season game in 2011 with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Herman takes early lead at Valspar Championship

Jim Herman played bogey-free golf en route to a 9-under 62 and a two-shot lead at the Valspar Championship on Thursday in Palm Harbor, Fla.

British Open champion Henrik Stenson and Russell Henley carded scores of 64. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Well-rounded Senators proving they're for real

Callum Fraser
For Metro | Ottawa

The arrival of veterans Viktor Stalberg and Alex Burrows, front left, have created a chain-reaction effect within the Senators lineup. FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

A little over a week ago, on trade-deadline day, Senators head coach Guy Boucher said he felt "like a kid under a Christmas tree." Finally, he had what he wanted up front.

Having acquired wingers Alex Burrows and Viktor Stalberg, the team that had been a playoff dark horse through February was now a serious threat, primed for a deep post-season run.

Sure enough, the Senators have gone 4-0 since the trades (not counting Thursday night's after-press-time tilt in Arizona). And the new guys have been key contributors, combining for five goals and seven points.

As important as their points, though, is the balance that their presence provides. It's a chain-reaction effect: Burrows's insertion into the top six pushes the speedy, skilled Ryan Dzingel down to the third line; Stalberg's presence on the fourth line gives Boucher the confidence he previously lacked to send that unit out on regular shift; the absence of an obviously weaker line means all the forwards are newly incentivized to compete with each other.

This is good. Especially when the lineup is now so deep that they can walk through the Dallas Stars with ease, as they did on Wednesday night, without No. 1 centre Kyle Turris, who is nursing an injured finger but should return to the ice after the team's three-game road trip.

The 2016-17 stretch-drive collection of Sens forwards is the best since 2012-13, the lockout-shortened year that ended with the team losing to Pittsburgh in the second round. In fact, this group might be better.

They're definitely different. They don't necessarily dominate opponents' ends; their identity has been forged, principally, in the neutral and defensive zones.

The players' compliance with Boucher's vaunted system is one of the main explanations for their great record against the league's premier teams. In the late stages of the campaign, the Senators' mix of dependable defence and sneakily dangerous offence is leaving their adversaries searching for answers.

And they're about to get even more help. In the coming weeks, Bobby Ryan is likely to rejoin the squad in time to get his legs back for the playoffs and to set off another chain reaction: another upgrade; another depth player pushed out; another reason for the other 11 forwards to be at their competitive best.

This is the most complete, well-rounded team we've seen in Ottawa in years. It's not so crazy anymore to think the Senators could win a couple rounds come mid-April.

Looking ahead, even if they stumble to a middling 9-8 record over their remaining 17 games, they'll finish with 46 wins — the most since 2007, when, I scarcely need to remind you, the franchise made it to its only Stanley Cup Final.

Callum Fraser works for TSN 1200, writes for SB Nation's Silver Seven and hosts local hockey radio show and podcast The Battle of Ontario. You can find him on Twitter as @CallumFraser18.

SCHEDULE

Upcoming games

- Saturday at Colorado
- Tuesday vs. Tampa Bay
- Thursday vs. Chicago

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Instagram-level Waffled Avocado Grilled Cheese

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Raise your grilled cheese game to Instagram levels with this pretty twist on a lazy dinner classic.

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves: 2

Ingredients
- 4 slices of whole grain bread
- butter
- 1/2 avocado
- small handful of fresh cilantro
- salt
- 1/2 cup shaved Monterey Jack cheese

Directions

1. On a cutting board, lay out bread slices. Spread butter on one side of each slice of bread.

2. In a small bowl, mash avocado, cilantro and salt to taste. Spread a heaping tablespoon of avocado mix on two slices of bread and sprinkle with cheese. Add cheese to the other plain slices of bread.

3. Place grilled cheese in waffle maker and cook according to machine's directions for a waffle. Repeat for the second sandwich.

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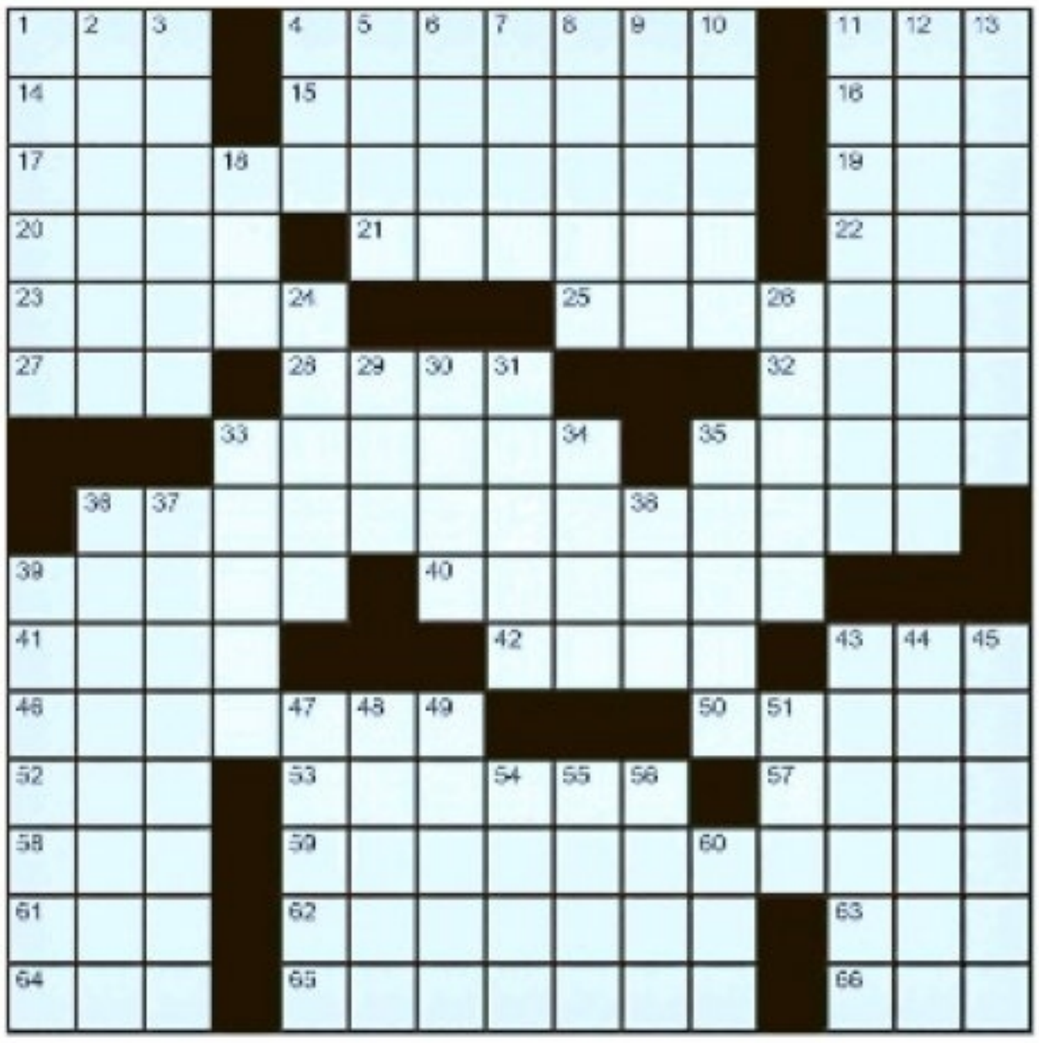
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Laughing one's laughs
4. Lose effectiveness as tape on paper
11. Vital life energy
14. Inclined
15. "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" (1947) actress Gene
16. Tavern drink
17. Northwest Territories town on the Mackenzie River where Imperial Oil has had operations for almost a century: 2 wds.
19. Pixie
20. Happiness
21. Red-tagged in the store: 2 wds.
22. Universal ideal
23. Country singer Mr. Jackson's
25. Doesn't get better
27. CD-_
28. Converse
32. First Nation of Manitoba
33. Virgil epic
35. Earths
36. As per #59-Across, Feist dances along this airport mechanism: 2 wds.
39. "_' Me" by Nickelback
40. Canis Major's bright star
41. Shades
42. Ice floe denizen
43. Gusto
46. Getting-dressed person
50. Tamarack _ (NWT's official tree)
52. UK military fliers
53. Go by, as time
57. Court plea, _ contendere
58. White House nickname
59. Feist song for which the music video is set in an airport: 4 wds.
61. Cost
62. Hopeful human
63. Apple _
64. Craze
65. #63-Across, for one
66. Attempt

DOWN
1. Airplane garage
2. _ Theater (Legendary concert hall in Harlem)
3. Broadcast like Netflix
4. Marathoner Ms. Pippig
5. "Deep Purple" by _ Tempo & April Stevens
6. Stitched
7. "_ bien!"
8. "Mother-_-_" by Ernie K-Doe
9. Stringed instrument
10. 1939: "Three Little Fishies" bandleader Kay
11. Touchstones
12. In a compassionate way
13. Puts upon
18. Fellows
24. Beer mug
26. Flat-bottomed vessels
29. Rock star Ms. Wilson
30. ZZ Top hit
31. Green inside fruits
33. Dispatch boat
34. Defy
35. Cranium's location
36. Hawaiian volcano: 2 wds.
37. Give too many munchies
38. _ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
39. Law enforcer in a Western
43. On time
44. Patisserie item
45. Variantly fake
47. Rage: 2 wds.
48. Alex P. Keaton's mother
49. Ground-to-moving-truck aids
51. Unspecified amount
54. Pea, in Montreal
55. Upset
56. Vitality, wee-ly
60. "The A-Team" star: wd. + letter

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You have an agenda, which is why you will work hard during the next six weeks to earn money. Many of you also will be spending it!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Fiery Mars will be in your sign for the next six weeks, boosting your energy and giving you lots of drive. (Be careful not to blow some people away.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You may have to use your sleuthing skills and diplomacy to deal with someone who might not have your best interests at heart. Unfortunately, this lasts for the next six weeks!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will be physically active with others, especially in groups, during the next six weeks. Some of you also will be in competition with each other.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your ambition will be aroused for the next six weeks, which is why you will be keen to pursue certain goals. Count on getting a lot done!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Travel plans will appeal to you during the next month. In addition, many of you will pursue higher education, schooling or further training during the next six weeks.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have definite ideas about how you want to handle shared property and debt. However, during the next six weeks, these ideas might put you at odds with someone.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will need to be patient with partners and close friends in the next six weeks, because you might find them to be annoying. This could be so, but you also might just be easily annoyed.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are gung-ho to work hard in the next six weeks, especially at your job. Naturally, you will produce a lot and get great results.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's playtime during the month ahead! You couldn't pick a better time to go on a vacation. Fingers crossed!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
During the next six weeks, you can expect increased chaos and activity on the home front. This might be due to renovations, visiting guests or something unexpected.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will be enthusiastic and energetic in all your communication with others for the next six weeks. This will be handy for those of you who write, sell, act or teach. Use this!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

				7				4
5			6		4			
		9		2				
	7		9	3		2	4	
	8						5	
	9	4		8	1		7	
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			2		7			1
6				5				

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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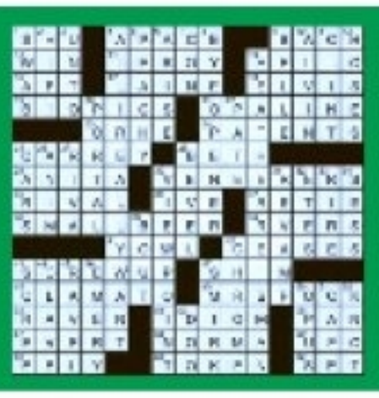

6	7	3	4	2	8	1	9	5
5	2	8	1	9	6	4	7	3
4	1	9	3	5	7	6	8	2
2	9	4	6	7	1	3	5	8
1	5	7	2	8	3	9	4	6
8	3	6	9	4	5	2	1	7
3	4	5	7	1	2	8	6	9
9	8	2	5	6	4	7	3	1
7	6	1	8	3	9	5	2	4

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